Support from ICAR

487. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought assistance from ICAR for supporting the growth of biotechnology in the State; and

(b) if so, the action, if any taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Guidelines for Financial help during Natural Calamities

488. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve new guidelines and norms for financial help in regard to natural calamities like drought and floods to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the 11th Finance Commission has given any recommendation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) the pattern of assistance to States in the wake of natural calamities is based on the recommendations of the Finance Commissions from time to time. In accordance with the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, financial assistance was provided under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Fund for Calamity Relief for the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Finance on the basis of the interim recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, has released

instalments of Central share of CRF for the year 2000-2001. The quantum of assistance from the CRF for the year 2000-2001 is about one and a half times that of the previous year.

Rehabilitation of Coastal Farmers of Orissa

489. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem of the farmers in the coastal Orissa;

(b) whether all the cyclone affected farmers have been suitably rehabilitated; and

(c) what other problems of the cyclone affected farmers have been resolved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) During 1999-2000, the Central Government released an amount of Rs. 828.15 crore from National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of floods and cyclones, in addition to Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 42.50 crore to mitigate the hardships of cyclone affected people including farmers. Instructions were issued for resheduling of loans and adequate credit facilities. The agricultural activity was revived during the Rabi season. As a result, the foodgrain production was up by 65% as compared to previous Rabi season. The ground level relief and rehabilitation measures are required to be undertaken by the State Administration.

Financial Assistance to Drought Hit States

490. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided financial assistance to drought hit States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether different criterion have been applied on different States for providing package;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and